

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

9

DECISION

TOPIC Land and Water Conservation Fund - City and County Grants

The Commission is requested to approve the ranking of the project applications for the Land and Waters Conservation Fund Program, City and County Grants, and award grants to applicants in that ranked order and as funds are available. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal fifty percent cost share grant program. The funds may be used by Iowa's cities and counties for outdoor recreation projects and is governed by program rules adopted in Chapter 27 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

The Department received 27 applications by the March 14, 2008 deadline, comprising a total request of \$1,29,449.00 for over \$22M in projects. The five-member Review and Selection committee, comprised of three department staff and two persons appointed by the Director with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association, scored and ranked the applications based on the following criteria, as established by rule: Relationship to SCORP Priorities (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan); direct recreation benefits provided; local need; and quality of the site. In addition, the Review and Selection committee awarded bonus and penalty points, also as established by rule, based on such criteria as: level of prior assistance from the LWCF; special features for the elderly and handicapped; minority populations served; degree of public participation and support; recycled content material use; and level of planning that has preceded the application for a LWCF grant.

The Department has not received the official grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, but anticipates that Iowa's apportionment will be approximately \$300,000.00. The Department intends to make one-half of Iowa's grant from the U.S. Department of Interior available to these applicants. The Department requests that the Commission approve the proposed rankings and approve the Department's funding of these projects in the order they are listed and as funds are available. The Department also requests the Commission to approve awarding funds to lower-ranked applicants on this list but not initially awarded, as funds may become available or are otherwise not utilized by prior awardees.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
May 8, 2008

Attachment: Ranked list of Land and Water Conservation Fund - City and County Grants